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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/898,987	07/03/2001	Marcus E. M. Verhagen	019497-002100	2854

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EXAMINER
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VO, HUYEN X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/898,987

Applicant(s)

VERHAGEN ET AL.

Examiner

Huyen Vo

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3, 4                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: there are missing application serial numbers and filing dates on pages 1 and 16.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless – (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miike et al. (US Patent No. 5787414).

1. Regarding claim 9, Miike et al. disclose a method for displaying a stage in the natural language compilation of an utterance, comprising one or more words (figure 9), the method comprising:

Receiving the utterance by a natural language system (col. 55, ln. 14-15);

Determining a semantic item associated with the utterance (col. 56, ln. 40-44);

Displaying the semantic item (col. 58, ln. 40-42).

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2. Regarding claim 10, Miike et al. further disclose the method of claim 9 wherein the semantic item comprises a syntactic-semantic composition (col. 56, ln. 22-26).
3. Regarding claim 11, Miike et al. disclose a method of claim 9 further comprising displaying a parse tree associated with the utterance (col. 33, ln. 38-45, the tree structure is the same as a parse tree).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weissman et al. (US Patent No. 6453315) in view of Brash (US Patent No. 5960384).

4. Regarding claim 1, Weissman et al. disclose a method using a computer system (figure 5) for determining semantic information of a lexical unit, comprising one or more words (col. 2, ln. 59-61), said method comprising:
  - receiving said lexical unit by said computer system (col. 7, ln. 24-35);
  - determining a stem of said lexical unit (col. 7, ln. 36-37);

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generating semantic information associated with said lexical unit (col. 5, ln. 49-51), wherein said semantic information is based on said stem and said type (col. 2, ln. 55-68 and col. 3, ln. 35-41, skier and skiing are examples of the type).

Weissman et al. fail to disclose a method for determining the type of a lexical unit. However, Brash teaches a method for distinguishing forms of the word (col. 8, ln. 51-55, distinguish nouns, verbs, and adjectives). The advantage of using the teaching of Brash in Weissman et al. is to allow the system to correctly parse and classify individual words according to their linguistic form so that a knowledge-based search can be carried out accurately.

Since Weissman et al. and Brash are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weissman et al. by incorporating the teaching of Brash in order for the system to correctly parse and classify individual words according to their linguistic form so that a knowledge-based search can be carried out accurately.

5. Regarding claim 5, Weissman et al. disclose a method for generating a semantic lexical item from an input, comprising one or more words (col. 5, ln. 49-51, a semantic distance can be used to generate a semantic lexical item), said method comprising:

receiving said lexical entry by a computer, said computer comprising a processor (512 of figure 5);

determining category information of said input (col. 2, ln. 32-44);

determining a stem of said input (col. 7, ln. 36-37);

generating said semantic lexical item associated with said stem, wherein said semantic lexical item, comprises said type and said category information (col. 5, ln. 49-51 and col. 3, ln. 35-41, skier and skiing are examples of the type); and

storing said semantic lexical item in a storage system coupled to said processor (col. 7, ln. 39-41 and 511-512 of figure 5, connected via system bus 513).

Weissman et al. fail to disclose a method for determining a type of the input. However Brash teaches a method for determining a type of the input (col. 8, ln. 51-55 distinguish nouns, verbs, and adjectives). The advantage of using the teaching of Brash in Weissman et al. is to allow the system to correctly parse and classify individual words according to their linguistic form so that a knowledge-based search can be carried out accurately.

Since Weissman et al. and Brash are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weissman et al. by incorporating the teaching of Brash in order for the system to correctly parse and classify individual words according to their linguistic form so that a knowledge-based search can be carried out accurately.

6. Regarding claims 2 and 6, the modified Weissman et al. fail to specifically disclose the type is selected from a group consisting of entity or event. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the type is selected from

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a group consisting of entity or event since any spoken word must belong to either entity or event, such as noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, or adverb.

7-8  
Claims 3-4<sup>7-8</sup> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weissman et al. (US Patent No. 6453315) in view of Brash (US Patent No. 5960384) and further in view of Bralich et al. (US. Patent No. 5878385).

7. Regarding claims 3-4 and 7-8, the modified Weissman et al. in accordance with claim 1 fail to disclose an entity type and an event type, and the entity type and event type are selected from a group consisting of simple or complex. However, Bralich et al. teach simple nouns and a simple verb (col. 50, ln. 58-59, John and Mike are simple nouns which belong to simple entity type and "gave" is a simple verb which belongs to simple event). The advantage of using the teaching of Bralich et al. in the modified Weissman et al. is to allow the system to determine whether the entity and event are simple or complex so that the system can conduct the search appropriately.

Since the modified Weissman et al. and Brash are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weissman by incorporating the teaching of Brash in order to allow the system to determine whether the entity and event are simple or complex so that the system can conduct the search appropriately.

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8. Regarding claim 7, the modified Weissman et al. fail to disclose the category includes information associated with a grammatical element. However, Bralich et al. teach the category includes information associated with a grammatical element (col. 17, ln. 50-54, and example 6 in col. 18 describes the words with their associated linguistic form at different level categories). The advantage of using the teaching of Bralich et al. in the modified Weissman et al. is to create rules based on the category levels and grammatical elements to process the input appropriately.

Since the modified Weissman et al. and Brash are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weissman by incorporating the teaching of Brash in order to create rules based on the category levels and grammatical elements so as to process the input appropriately.

9. Regarding claim 8, the modified Weissman et al. fail to disclose a grammatical element is selected from a group consisting of noun, verb, adjective, adverb, or pronoun. However, Bralich et al. teach a grammatical element is selected from a group consisting of noun, verb, adjective, adverb, or pronoun (col. 13, ln. 34-35). The advantage of using the teaching of Bralich et al. in the modified Weissman is to assist the system identifying the grammatical form of the input words so that it can appropriately conduct the search.

Since the modified Weissman et al. and Brash are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill



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in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weissman by incorporating the teaching of Brash in order to assist the system identifying the grammatical form of the input words so that it can appropriately conduct the search.

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose email address is [huyen.vo@uspto.gov](mailto:huyen.vo@uspto.gov). The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

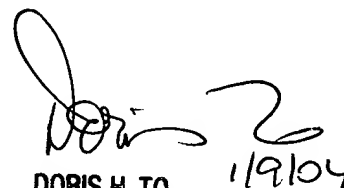
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-306-0377.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

Examiner Huyen X. Vo

Date: December 10, 2003

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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1/9/04